

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 23, 2004. Claims 24, 26, 27, 29-33, 35, 36, 38-41, 51, 53, 54, and 56-59 are presented for examination. Claims 25, 33, and 52 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be discussed further. Claims 24, 31-33, 40, 41, 51, 58, and 59, the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and Claims 29, 38, 53, 54, 56, and 57 have been amended as to matters of form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 24, 26, 27, 29-33, 35, 36, 38-41, 51, 53, 54, and 56-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,718 (*Hiraike '718*), in view of legal precedent.

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 24, 31-33, 40, 41, 51, 58, and 59 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 24 is a host computer that communicates with a plurality of printing apparatuses via a network. The host computer includes a reference unit, a font registration unit, a management unit, and an instruction unit. The reference unit refers to font registration information that includes information specifying at least one font registered in each of the plurality of printing apparatuses. The font registration unit downloads font data to any one of the plurality of printing apparatuses for registration. The management unit retains the font registration

information irrespective of a printing process, indicating the font data downloaded to each of the plurality of printing apparatuses by the font registration unit, and the instruction unit issues a delete instruction to any one of the plurality of printing apparatuses to delete the font data that corresponds to one of the fonts discriminated based on the font registration information referred to by the reference unit.

Among other notable features of Claim 24 are that the management unit retains the font registration information irrespective of a printing process, indicating the font data downloaded to each of the plurality of printing apparatuses by the font registration unit, and that the instruction unit issues a delete instruction to any one of the plurality of printing apparatuses to delete the font data that corresponds to one of the fonts discriminated based on the font registration information referred to by the reference unit.

Hiraike '718, which has been discussed in previous prosecution, relates to an information processing apparatus connected to a printer engine for effecting a printing operation based on an input command. In the *Hiraike '718* system, as depicted in Figures 13 and 14, upon entering a print job from the host computer to the printer, the host computer determines whether the font data required for the print job has been registered in printer and downloads the font data to the printer if the data has not been registered. Further, it makes a determination whether there is sufficient memory capacity after the registration. If it is determined that there is insufficient memory capacity, the *Hiraike '718* system deletes the font data that is not necessary for the print job (column 9, lines 31-39). Because the host computer must send a request command to the printer for the determination process, network traffic and processing load on the management side is increased, especially if the a plurality of printers are provided.

In contrast, the present invention as recited in Claim 24, retains the font registration information irrespective of a printing process, whereas *Hiraike* '718 must determine whether font data required for a print job has been registered in the printer. Applicant has found nothing in *Hiraike* '718, even modified to include plural printers as discussed by the legal precedent cited, that would teach or suggest the management unit retaining the font registration information irrespective of a printing process, indicating the font data downloaded to each of the plurality of printing apparatuses by the font registration unit, as recited in Claim 24.

Further, Applicant submits that in *Hiraike* '718, even modified to include plural printers as discussed by the legal precedent cited, that would teach or suggest issuing a delete instruction to any one of the plurality of printing apparatuses to delete the font data that corresponds to one of the fonts discriminated based on the font registration information referred to by the reference unit, as also recited in Claim 24.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 24 is clearly patentable over *Hiraike* '718, even to include plural printers.

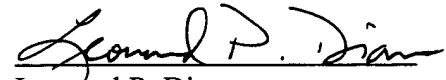
Independent Claims 33 and 51 are method and computer program claims respectively corresponding to host computer Claim 24, and are believed to be patentable over *Hiraike* '718 for reasons substantially similar as discussed above in connection with Claim 24. Additionally, independent Claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 58, and 59 include features substantially along the lines as those discussed above in connection with Claim 24. Accordingly, Claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 58, and 59 are believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claim 24.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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